BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

On Monday, the 18th inst., a general meeting of this society was held at the Institution, in Park-street, Bristol, the Venerable the Archdeacon Thorpe in the chair. The Rev. Eccles Carter, honorary secretary, read the Report of the committee for the past year, from which it appeared, that the society was in a satisfactory condition, and that its usefulness was recognized by application for advice in respect of St. Andrew's Church, Chippenham; St. Luke's, Brislington; Markbury Church; Two Mile Hill Church, and others; they had occasion to regret, that at St. James's Church, Bristol, some suggestions made by them had not been carried out.* At Two Mile Hill Church, the ringers were admitted to the loft by a door not connected with the church; to which the committee was opposed, as tending to separate the ringers from the services. The restoration of the upper part of Dundry Church was in their hands, but was stopped by the weather.

The chairman having addressed the meeting at some length on the topics mooted in the Report, a committee for the new year was elected, and other routine business transacted. After this, Mr. F. Niblett read a paper on the architecture of fonts.

Before the meeting broke up, it was resolved, that a paper, by the honorary secretary, on architectural societies, and the hindrances in the way of their successful operation, read at a previous general meeting, should be printed and distributed. A part of this paper will be found on another page.

OXFORD.

Strong efforts are being made here, in favour of a national measure for the establishment of general cemetries. At a meeting of the town council, held on the 14th, a form of petition was brought up, and after some opposition, agreed to. Those who opposed it, did so on the ground, that it was "an attempt to agitate the people against the clergy, and to oppose those who ought to be treated with respect and love;" and said, they thought that those to whom they looked for religious solace and support ought not to become the objects of a *quasi* political warfare. And so think we too; but the fact is, no such feeling actuates those who would get rid of burials in towns. Existing interests must of course be protected.

At the same meeting, the following report from the Sanatory Committee was read: At a meeting of the Sanatory Committee held on the 13th inst.—Resolved, "That Alderman Butler be chairman of this committee. That this committee desire their chairman to call the attention of the next council to the present inefficient supply of soft water; to the imperfect sewerage and house drainage; and the greatly increased mortality, which the committee believe to be chiefly consequent upon these evils. That the individual members of the council be requested to report to the sanatory committee all nuisances which they may be cognizant of, and which they consider to be prejudicial to the health of the town, in order that the same may be registered, and the proper steps taken for their abatement. The chairman is requested to summon this committee on an early day, to take several matters into consideration."

The drainage and sewerage of Oxford is exceedingly bad, and, with the defective supply of water, sufficiently accounts for the greatly increased mortality.

Monumental Sculpture.—There seems to be a want of invention amongst our modern sculptors, not so much in the mere outline of monuments (their forms are numerous enough) but a want of something that would at once speak to the imagination. It is yet left for some man of mind to illustrate death from the history of our holy religion—to sculpture that sleep after life's long storm, and call from the marble such forms as we believe we shall meet with in heaven.—*Miller's Country Life.*

* The restoration of this Norman church, to which we alluded some time since, is now completed. Two ponderous and discordant galleries at the west end, have been put up without the good will of the architect employed.

New Book.

The High Pressure Steam-engine Investigated. By Dr. Ernst Alban. Translated by W. Pole, F.R.A.S. Parts I. and II. Weale, London, 1847.

Some may perhaps wonder, the translator says, at being referred to the writings of a foreigner, and to the results of foreign experience, for information on a subject so essentially English as that of the steam-engine. One reason, however, is at once apparent: "ever since the time of Newcomen, the attention of the English has been almost exclusively directed to that modification of the steam-engine which depends for its source of power principally upon the condensibility of steam, namely, the low-pressure condensing engine, in which a very moderate elasticity is used. The other great class, comprising that variety of engine which owes its efficiency principally to the elasticity of the steam,—the high-pressure engine,—is (or at least was a very few years ago) scarcely known among us in comparison. While we find the condensing engine studied carefully, treated of most voluminously, and manufactured by wholesale, we deplore the neglect which the high-pressure engine has suffered;—we look in vain for information upon it; and we are scarcely able to point, even in the present more cultivated field of locomotives, to a solitary specimen deserving the name of an economical producer of steam power."

The author maintains, that the high-pressure is more safe and more economical than the low-pressure condensing engine. He proceeds first to examine the objections brought against the former, dwelling especially on its alleged danger; discusses the causes that tend to produce explosions, and shews the errors often committed in the manufacture of vessels for the generation of high-pressure steam. He then points out what he considers the advantages of the high-pressure engine; and afterwards treats in detail of the boiler and the furnace. The third and fourth parts, to conclude the work, will contain, the translator says, the author's views as to the construction best adapted to secure the ends proposed, namely, safety and economy.

Correspondence.

THE ROYAL MEDAL FOR ARCHITECTURE.

Sir,—Having observed your willingness to make public any remarks that are conceived with an intention of increasing a knowledge in "*Fine Art* Architecture" perhaps you would kindly insert the following ideas in your valuable journal:—

Being a competitor for the Royal Gold Medal for 1846, given by her Majesty through the Institute of Architects, and appropriated by them as a stimulus for the juvenile branch of the profession of architecture, I would humbly suggest that (after the gentlemen to whom they may be referred for selecting the best design have pronounced their decision), the whole of the designs would be exhibited, *at least* to the competitors themselves. This would, in my opinion, and to speak for myself, be a kind of reward to the unsuccessful, for the labour they may have bestowed on their respective drawings, and would in very many ways be productive of good results to the rising members of the profession. I am totally ignorant as to the course the institute may think it right to adopt, but if I may be allowed to make a suggestion, would suggest that the committee of selection should point the *principal* objections to, or defects in the designs generally, embracing not only the elevations, but the arrangement and construction, &c.: this would make the awarding of the Royal Gold Medal a source of instruction and profit even to the unsuccessful, and in some instances might be better in after life than even gaining the prize. I am, Sir, &c.,

London, Jan. 19th, 1847. "Nemo."

DALSTON INSTITUTION COMPETITION.

Sir,—Referring to the communication you have already published on this subject, I can state that the commissioners were distinctly told at the time of their receiving the drawings sent in competition, that a building such as their *written* instructions set forth could not be built in the vicinity of the metropolis for twice the outlay (1,500*l.*) to which they judged right to restrict the competing architects.

A building such as their printed prospectus described might possibly have come within their mark, but that one required by their pen and ink instructions and outline plan was plainly far beyond the scope of their so described intended (?) outlay, of which fact they were advised to assure themselves by reference to similar institutions of recent date, whose names were also placed before them.

Let us hope that for their own credit they have erred through ignorance rather than through design; be that as it may, somebody must pay for the trouble given in furnishing quantities and making out the dozen and a half estimates for the carcase only, given in your number of last week!—Your constant reader,

Tuesday, Jan. 19th, 1847. Q.

Sir,—I observed a letter from a correspondent of yours, calling himself "Alpha," in reference to the Dalston Literary Institution competition, and complaining of the result. But I would ask him what else he could expect from a committee so utterly ignorant of what is due for professional exertion, as to suppose that any architect could be paid even his necessary expenses for such an object by the paltry premium of 10*l.*, which they offered through your columns? "Alpha" should have known, that in the first place he was rendering himself amenable to the decision of men without one idea of that upon which they pretended to judge, and in the next, that he would have to contend with no member of the profession of any respectability, and would therefore expose himself to all sorts of tricks and chicanery.

Are not rumours afloat of a similar transaction in the competition for a new church at Battersea? This was, I believe, a "close" competition, and it is therefore more difficult to reach the facts of the case.

It is to be hoped, however, that continued exposure will, in time, put a stop to these nefarious proceedings. I am, Sir, &c.,

Jan. 14th, 1847. An Architect.

Miscellanea.

Stained Glass in Leeds.—At the parish church of Leeds two new lights at the east end, each consisting of three long openings, have been filled with stained glass, executed by Mr. Wilmshurst. These occur on each side of the centre, or original window, which is filled almost entirely with ancient glass. The new light, on the north side, contains some of the principal events in the life of our Saviour, each composition being under a canopy. The subjects are; "The offering of the Wise Men," "Christ disputing with the Doctors," "Blessing Little Children," "The Tribute Money," &c. The south light exhibits some of the principal events in the life of St. Peter, in whose name the church is dedicated; as, "The Deliverance from Prison," "The Charge," "The Draught of Fishes," &c., in all, nine subjects. The tracery of the windows is filled with the representations of angels, scrolls, &c. There are also six panels, one at the bottom of each opening. Those at the four sides contain emblems; and in each of the central panels is an inscription upon a scroll, intimating that the windows are the gift of Mr. Blayds, and sacred to the memory of his two elder sons, who respectively died in the years 1842 and 1845. The colours, especially the blue, red, and ruby, are very brilliant; and the whole is creditable to the taste and execution of the artist.

The Morgan Testimonial.—The statue by Mr. J. Evan Thomas, selected by the committee, as we mentioned last week, is to be executed in bronze. The premium of 30*l.*, offered for the second best design, was awarded to Messrs. Haines and Co., builders, of Southampton.

Competition.—Designs are wanted for a club-house for the Army and Navy Club, as will be seen by advertisement in our present number.

Holborn Hill Viaduct.—The company formed to effect this important improvement, have postponed their application for an Act till next session.

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